

**FILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" UNDER 37 CFR 1.10**

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE PCT NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION OF

Art Unit: 1612

Aukunuru, Jithan et al.

Examiner: Basquill, Sean M

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO: PCT/EP03/08005

FILED: July 22, 2003

U.S. APPLICATION NO: 10/521946

35 USC §371 DATE: January 21, 2005

FOR: Ophthalmic Ointment Composition Comprising a Drug, an Ointment  
Base and a Solubilizing/Dispersing Agent

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

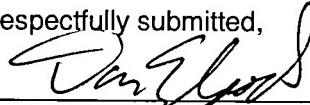
**PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Sir:

The Office Action of December 24, 2009 has a shortened statutory time set to expire on March 24, 2009. A three-month extension is hereby requested pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136(a).

Please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis in the amount of \$ 1110 for payment of the extension fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR §1.17 which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Daniel Woods  
Attorney for Applicant  
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Date: June 21, 2010